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Tina Liebling
State Representative
District 30A
Rochester



Minnesota House of Representatives

October 25, 2005

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Section of Environmental Analysis
Case Control Unit
Finance Docket No. 33407
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Rutson:

In July 2005, I wrote to you regarding my concerns with the proposed Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern (DME) rail project that will run through Rochester, Minnesota.

Recently, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) entered into an agreement with DME regarding compliance with federal rail safety regulations. The FRA found shortcomings in the management and implementation of DME's safety program and cited DME for "serious safety problems with track maintenance, employee training, bridge inspections, and highway-rail grade crossing warning devices."

The FRA's findings heighten my concerns and those of my constituents about an eventual expansion of DME's operations through Rochester. It is apparent that DME has given short shrift to safety. Yet this company wants the opportunity to greatly expand its operations through the center of a thriving city of almost 100,000 people and right alongside one of the nation's leading medical centers. The FRA's findings illustrate once again that DME's request is contrary to the public's interests.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina".

Tina Liebling
State Representative

